

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

MC-02 EURE-00 /067 W

----- 051004

P R 071822Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5366

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR/AEAGD-T, HEIDELBERG PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ANTWERP

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

CONCELM BREMERHAVEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENGLAND

CINCUSAFE, RAMSTEIN AB GERMANY

USCINCEUR VAHIHINGEN GERMANY

CDR MTMC WASHINGTON, D.C.

CDR COMSC WASHDC

CDR 4TH TRANS BDE OBERRUSEL GERMANY

CDR USATTGE RODM NETHERLANDS

COMSCLANT BAYONNE N.J.

DIA WASHDC

MSCO ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

CDR USAPAE FRANKFURT, GERMANY

HQ BENELUX TERMINAL/CO/ROTTERDAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRUSSELS 10064

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MMOL, MARR, NATO, BE , US

SUBJECT: RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF ZEEBRUGGE

REF: BRUSSELS 9521, OCTOBER 22, 1975

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1. REPRESENTATIVES FROM CINCUSNAVEUR/ JAGC , DDESB, CINCUSAREUR , COMSCELM, HQS USEUCOM J4/7, AMCONGEN ANTWERP , MAAG AND DAO BRUSSELS AND EMBASSY MET WITH BELGIAN OFFICIALS REPRESENTING FOREIGN MINISTRY , CITY OF BRUGGE AND PORT AUTHORITY NOVEMBER 6. BELGIANS PRESENT INCLUDED FOREIGN MINISTRY REP AMBASSADOR DENORME, MAYOR OF BRUGGE VAN MAELE, PORT ALDERMAN TRAEN , SECOND ALDERMAN LAMBRECHTS, HARBOR MASTER BEEKEN AND DEPUTY HARBOR MASTER VAN HAVERE.

2. RESULTS OF MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

(1) BELGIANS AGREED TO CONSIDER ONLY NET WEIGHT OF EXPLOSIVES (NEC) RATHER THAN GROSS WEIGHT OF MUNITIONS (INCLUDING CASINGS AND PACKING) IN ESTABLISHING LIMITS. (2) BELGIANS AGREED TO DROP LOWER RESTRICTIONS FOR MIXED CARGOES OF MUNITIONS (BRUSSELS 7195, AUG . 11, 1975). (3) BELGIANS AGREED THAT UP TO THREE MUNITIONS SHIPS WOULD BE PERMITTED IN ZEEBRUGGE SIMULTANEOUSLY. (THIS IN RESPONSE TO USG NEED TO HAVE COASTERS PRESENT FOR TRANSSHIPMENT OF MUNITIONS FROM SS RANGER WHEN IT IN PORT.) (4) BELGIANS AGREED TO RECONSIDER THEIR RESTRICTIONS (BRUSSELS 7195) AT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 24 PROVIDED USG FURNISHED CERTAIN INFORMATION DESCRIBED BELOW PRIOR TO THAT MEETING. RESTRICTIONS WILL GO INTO EFFECT NOVEMBER 25 BARRING RESCISSION OR REVISION OF THOSE RESTRICTIONS AT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 24. MAYOR ASSURED US (A) THAT UPON RECEIPT OF SATISFACTORY USG PAPER, HE WOULD RECOMMEND CHANGE IN RESTRICTIONS AT NOVEMBER 24 MEETING AND (B) SHOULD THERE BE TECHNICAL PROBLEM, THAT EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS (I.E. NOVEMBER 25) WOULD NOT HOLD.

3 IN RETURN FOR BELGIAN CONCESSIONS ABOVE, WE AGREED TO FOLLOWING : (1) WE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK ON TECHNICAL LEVEL WITH HARBOR MASTER IN ESTABLISHING SCHEDULE FOR MUNITIONS SHIPS TO INSURE THAT NO MORE THAN TWO OR THREE SUCH SHIPS WOULD BE SIMULTANEOUSLY

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BERTHED IN ZEEBRUGGE PORT. (FYI: IN 1974, 156 MUNITIONS SHIPS , INCLUDING US, CALLED AT ZEEBRUGGE ACCOUNTING FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR PERCENT OF TOTAL PORT REVENUES . END FYI.) (2) WE AGREED TO SUSPEND LOADING / UNLOADING OPERATIONS PURSUANT TO HARBOR MASTER'S INSTRUCTIONS DURING ACTUAL PASSAGE OF PASSENGER FERRIES IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO US MUNITIONS SHIPS . (FYI: ZEEBRUGGE TO U.K.

FERRY IS USED BY APPROXIMATELY 800,000 PERSONS  
ANNUALLY 400,000 OF WHOM USE FERRY DURING PEAK  
TOURIST MONTHS JULY AND AUGUST. END FYI.) IN  
INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS HARBOR MASTER FLOATED  
PERSONAL IDEA OF SUSPENDING MUNITIONS OPERATIONS  
ENTIRELY DURING JULY AND AUGUST. AS THIS SUGGESTION  
WAS NOT RAISED FORMALLY DURING MEETING WE MADE  
NO PROMISES IN THIS REGARD. ( TO EXTENT POSSIBLE,  
HOWEVER, WE SUGGEST THAT US MUNITIONS SHIPMENTS BE  
HELD TO MINIMUM IN PORT OF ZEEBRUGGE DURING  
THAT PERIOD.) (3) US MUNITIONS SHIPMENTS WOULD NOT  
EXCEED 682 MT (1.5 MILLION POUNDS )NEC, A COMPROMISE  
WHICH PROVIDES REASONABLE DEGREE OF SAFETY TO LOCAL  
POPULATION WHILE MEETING ESSENTIAL U.S. OPERATIONAL  
REQUIREMENTS.

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

MC-02 EURE-00 /067 W

----- 050529

P R 071822Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5367

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR/AEAGD-T, HEIDELBERG PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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CDR USAPAE FRANKFURT, GERMANY  
HQ BENELUX TERMINAL/CO/ROTTERDAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRUSSELS 10064

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MMOL, MARR, NATO, BE , US  
SUBJECT: RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF ZEEBRUGGE

REF: BRUSSELS 9521, OCTOBER 22, 1975  
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4. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM BRUGGE AUTHORITIES, WE AGREED PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL PAPER ON (A) DAMAGE EFFECTS WHICH MIGHT RESULT FROM TOTAL EXPLOSION OF 682 MT NEC, AND (B) EXPANDED EXPLANATION OF US SAFETY MEASURES TAKEN IN ADDITION TONEC AND SCHEDULING LIMITS (INASMUCH AS FORMAL SAFETY BRIEFING WAS NOT PRESENTED). THIS PAPER MUST BE SUBMITTED TO BRUGGE AUTHORITIES THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY BY NOVEMBER 20 PRIOR TO THEIR MEETING TO RECONSIDER RESTRICTIONS WHICH UNLESS RESCINDED OR OR MODIFIED WILL TAKE EFFECT NOVEMBER 25. FORMAT OF PAPER SHOULD INCLUDE ONE OR TWO PAGE NARRATIVE IN SIMPLE NON-TECHNICAL LANGUAGE WITH NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS REQUIRED TO FULLY AND ACCURATELY PRESENT CASE. ALL BELGIANS INVOLVED MOST INTERESTED IN CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT OF ENTIRE SUBJECT OF MUNITIONS HANDLING IN ZEEBRUGGE.

5. BELGIAN AUTHORITIES WILL USE THIS DAMAGE ASSESSMENT PAPER TO COMPUTE POSSIBLE MONETARY COST OF CATASTROPHIC EXPLOSION DUE TO MALFUNCTION OR MISUSE BY PORT EMPLOYEES OF PORT OWNED /OPERATED EQUIPMENT (E.G. CRANE). RESULTS WILL BE USED BY PORT AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL THIRD PARTY LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THEIR OWN LIABILITY. PORT AUTHORITIES DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF THIRD PARTY LIABILITY OF STEVEDORING CONTRACTOR OR OF THE U.S. BRUGGE AUTHORITIES WANT TO INSURE THAT THEIR OWN INSURANCE COVERAGE WILL COVER SUCH DAMAGES WHEN CAUSED BY THEIR EQUIPMENT /PERSONNEL. BELGIANS WILL ALSO USE DAMAGE ESTIMATE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WILL PERMIT 682 MT NEC

INTO PORT

6. PORT AUTHORITIES PROPOSE TO ADD TO PORT - OWNED EQUIPMENT FEES, COST OF ANY ADDITIONAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS REQUIRED.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST USAREUR PREPARE PAPER DESCRIBED ABOVE, ASSURE ALL APPROPRIATE CONFIDENTIAL

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COORDINATION, AND PROVIDE THREE COPIES TO EMBASSY ASAP AND IN ANY CASE NLT NOVEMBER 17 IN ORDER TO PERMIT EMBASSY REVIEW PRIOR TO PASSING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.

8. QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO OTHER LIABILITY MATTERS AND INCREASED USG USE OF THE PORT, INCLUDING THE CONTAINER FACILITY, WERE NOT RAISED BY BELGIANS AND WE DID NOT DO SO.

9. WE WILL FURNISH SUBSTANTIVE POINTS ABOVE COVERING RECORD OF MEETING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AT TIS REQUEST IN ORDER THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY CAN USE IT FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES AND WITH BRUGGE AUTHORITIES AS RECORD OF MEETING.

10. EMBASSY APPRECIATES OUTSTANDING SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY ALL REPRESENTATIVES TO NOVEMBER 5 MEETING AT EMBASSY AND SUBSEQUENT NOVEMBER 6 MEETING WITH BELGIANS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MUNITIONS CONTROLS, ARMS TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, PORT FACILITIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BRUSSELS 9521  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF ZEEBRUGGE  
**TAGS:** MMOL, MARR, BE, US, NATO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006